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W. O. Baker



June 9, 1989

Dr. Joshua Lederberg Chairman of the Board Annual Reviews 4139 E1 Camino Way P. O. Box 10139 Palo Alto California 94303-0897

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

Before the current publication cycle is completed I want to express to you and your Board of Directors and editors a high appreciation of the continuing gifts of current volumes, to retired Members of the Board. This generosity, begun some years ago, has been a steady and indeed increasing source of value and pleasure to us. Having observed, and in our various small ways perhaps promoted, the process of acquiring such reviews, organizing and publishing them as you all do so expertly, we of course have had long confidence in their role in the progress of scientific research and learning. However as the years pile on, and science and technology double their printed record every five to seven years, your wide ranging volumes give us special help in our various pursuits of individual scientific interest, and Federal and Foundation activity and other elements of national scientific strength. Further the special interests that many of us have had in the bibliography and information structure of the scientific and technologic enterprise all benefit strongly from your thoughtfulness.

Thus, while you might naturally wonder whether a continuing flow of books to us is superfluous or wasteful, we are glad to take occasion to assure you of the opposite. Likewise the editorial selection and scientific and professional communities' synthesis reflected in the volumes as they are shaped each year is itself of strong import. Your own special interest and comprehension of these matters has made that participation of particular appeal.

Besides all these operational merits of what you are doing, your sharing reminds us of the esteemed personal connections we had for so many years and the courtesies extended during our meetings in Palo Alto. So altogether we congratulate you, along with our thanks, for providing American scholarship and learning in industrial and economic as well as basic academic modes with an invaluable and effective resource. The reconstitution of the OSTP in the White House this Spring reminds one of the original PSAC Report, the very first one made to a President and warmly received by President Eisenhower. It was, of course, on the use and value of the scientific and technical literature. It forwarded the theme, later affirmed by the Weinberg Committee on which we both worked and in subsequent studies, that independent resources rather than rigid centralized literature operations should be the major effort for information in American science and engineering in the Twentieth Century. As that Century now rounds out, the work of Annual Reviews is a major validation of the positions and hopes expressed more than a third of a century ago. With warm esteem and personal wishes, which I hope you will extend also to the Directors and Staff, I am,

Sincerely,

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